**Statement II**

| Sl No. | Name of district on border area | No. of villages | No. of villages provided with telephone facilites upto 31.1.97 | No. of Telephone Exhanges provided with STD facility | No. of villages proposed for telephone facilities during 1996-97 | No. of Telephone Exchanges working in villages/ Rural areas proposed for STD facility during 1996-97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Amritsar | 1293 | 990 | 61 | 100 | 5 |
| 2. | Gurdaspur | 1736 | 887 | 29 | 100 | 14 |
| 3. | Ferozepur | 970 | 570 | 26 | 150 | — |

**Scheme to expand communication network**

1195. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to expand communications network in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The targets for installation of new telephone connections for the expansion on communication network during 1996-97 and proposed during 1997-98 are as follows:

(in lakh)

| Year | For entire Country | For State of Punhab |
|---|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 24.50 | 1.53 |
| 1997-98 | 29.00 (tentative) | 1.69 |

(c) Does not arise in view of (b).

(d) Efforts are being made to achieve the targets fully by making available the resources like equipments and other infrastructures.

**Telephone Exchange in Punjab**

1196. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges functioning in Punjab, district-wise;

(b) the capacity of each of these exchagnes;

(c) whether Government propose to increase their capacity and make modernisation thereof; and

(d) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Total exchagnes working in Pubjab Circle are 876. The details are given in Annexure [*See* Appendix 180 Annexure No. 30]

(c) Yes, Sir. The exchanges have already been modernised and there are plans to increase the capacity.

(d) The details are given in Annexure [*See* Appendix 180 Annexure No. 30]